

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 OMB-01 RSR-01 AID-20 PC-04 IO-13 OPR-02 SY-10

M-03 A-01 (ADP)W

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R 181130Z JUL 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3434

INF AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 2160

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG LY

SUBJECT: LIBYAN MARCH ON CAIRO

1. CAIRO PRESS JULY 18 REPORTS WITHOUT EDITORIAL COMMENT
LIBYAN PLANS TO MARCH ON CAIRO. ACCORDING TO
NEWSPAPERS, LIBYANS TAKING PART IN THE MARCH HAVE
DECIDED TO SMASH BORDER BARRIERS BETWEEN THE TWO
COUNTRIES AND HAND OVER TO SADAT A STATEMENT WRITTEN
IN BLOOD HOLDING SADAT RESPONSIBLE FOR COMPLETION OF
UNITY. MARCH STARTED AS RAS GEDER WITH LIGHTING OF A
UNITY FLARE. MARCHERS ARE TO ARRIVE IN TRIPOLI TODAY,
JULY 18, AND PLAN TO ARRIVE IN CAIRO JULY 23. CONVOY
IS TO PROCEED VIA DESERT ROAD TO PYRAMIDS AREAS WHERE
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CARS WILL BE PARKED. MARCHERS WILL THEN MARCH ON FOOT

TO ABDIN PALACE WHERE THEY WILL HOLD SIT-IN STRIKE AT
ABDIN SQUARE UNTIL UNITY AGREEMENT IS SIGNED.

2. COMMENT: WE ATTRIBUTE LACK OF EDITORIAL COMMENT TO
EGYPTIAN BELIEF THAT STORY SPEAKS FOR ITSELF. SADAT
AND EGYPTIAN REGIME SHOULD BE ABLE TO KEEP EVENTS UNDER
CONTROL, ALTHOUGH SADAT IS NO DOUBT LIVID OVER THIS
RATHER CRUDE ATTEMPT TO PUT HIM ON THE SPOT.
LIBYAN PLOY WILL PROBABLY HAVE EFFECT OF CONFIRMING
SUSPICIONS ON PART OF EGYPTIAN LEADERSHIP THAT QADHAAFI
IS NOT A VERY SUITABLE PERSON TO BE GIVEN A POSITION
OF RESPONSIBILITY IN THE NEW STATE. IF, AS SEEMS MOST
LIKELY, MARCH FIZZLES OR, AT LEAST, FAILS TO ATTRACT
SUBSTANTIAL EGYPTIAN SUPPORT, NET RESULT WILL BE
FURTHER DEMONSTRATION THAT EGYPTIANS ARE UNWILLING
TO ACCEPT MERGER ON QADHAAFI'S TERMS.
WILEY

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